

REMARKS

Claim 1-36 remain pending in this application. Based on the foregoing amendments and following remarks, entry of this amendment and reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious over various combinations of Sherry (U.S. Patent No. 6,221,071), Shafirstein (U.S. Patent No. 6,780,177), Zepeda (PCT Publication No. WO 99/25260), and Sharkey (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0031963). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections, since no proper combination of Sherry, Shafirstein, Zepeda, and Sharkey, discloses, teaches, or suggests the combination of elements required by these claims, as amended.

In particular, independent claim 1 has been amended to include limitations similar to those of allowable claim 15. Dependent claims 2-8 have been amended to make the language recited therein consistent with the amended language of claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that independent claim 1, as well as the claims depending therefrom (claims 2-14), are allowable over the cited prior art, and as such, respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections of these claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant graciously acknowledges the allowance of claims 15-36.

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, it is believed that all claims are now allowable and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or comments

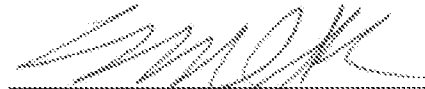
regarding this amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at (949) 724-1849.

Respectfully submitted,

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